MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE

BROAD RIVER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

CONVENED AT

WOLF'S CREEK MEETING-HOUSE,

SPARTANBURGH DISTRICT, S. C.

OCTOBER 16-19, 1835.

FRIDAY.

1. The introductory sermon was delivered, agreeably to appointment, by Elder JAMES M. WEBB, from 2d Corinthians, v. 20.

2. Read letters from 26 churches, enrolled the names of their delegates, and minuted the accounts transmitted.

3. Elected Elder DRURY DOBBINS Moderator, and Elder PHILIP RAMSAUR Clerk.

4. Appointed the Moderator, Clerk, and Elder Berryman Hicks, a Committee of Arrangement.

5. After prayer by Elder James Rainwater, adjourned until to-morrow, 10 o'clock.

SATURDAY.

Met according to adjournment. Elder George Wilkie prayed. The report of the Committee of Arrangement was called for, read and received.

6. Read Rules of Decorum.

7. Received and read letters from corresponding Associations, viz: From the Reedy River a letter, by their messengers, Stephen Powell and Minor Wynne.

From the Catawba, a letter and two packets of minutes, by their messengers Elders Alfred Webb, and Joseph C. Grayson. From the Tyger River, a letter and minutes, by their messengers Elders Samuel Gibson, John W. Lewis, and John G. Landrum. From the French Broad, a letter, by their messengers Elders David Blackwell and William Mince.

Also, a packet of the Southern Baptist, by the hand of brother Jehu Wells; but no letters nor messengers from the Bethel and Saluda Associations.

8. The following persons were thus appointed, viz: Elder B. Hicks to write to the Bethel Association, himself and P. Ramsaur messengers: Elder J. M. Webb to write to the Saluda, Elders D. Scruggs and J. Rainwater messengers: P. Ramsaur to write to the Reedy River, Elders D. Dobbins, W. Hannon and J. M. Webb messengers: Elder G. Wilkie to write to the Catawba, himself, Elders D. Dobbins and Joab Wilkie messengers: Elder J. Rainwater to write to the Tyger River, himself, Elders B. Hicks, W. Hannon, T. S. Rice and T. Grogan messengers: Elder D. Dobbins to write to the French Broad, Elders J. Lyon, T. S. Rice, and J. M. Webb messengers.

9. Appointed brethren D. Beam, S. Weathers, J. Poole and Elder W. Hannon, a Committee to arrange Union Meetings, who reported as follows: 1st, at Sandy Run, to commence on Friday before the third Sunday in March, 1836; 2d, at Long Creek, to commence on Friday before the third Sunday in August; 3d, at Bethesda, to commence on Friday before the first Sunday in September; 4th, at New Prospect, to commence on Friday before the second Sunday in September.

10. Appointed Elder B. Hicks, brethren J. Ham and J. Harrington, a Committee to receive contributions for printing the minutes and circular letter of the Association; the committee returned with the amount of $32 10

The Clerk reported a balance in his hands, of last year's contributions, of - - - - - 14 03

The Clerk was directed to have 1200 copies printed, and to distribute them as usual.*

*Price of Printing, - - - - - - - $24 00

KBK
E Penn
12mo
1323

11. Appointed Elders D. Dobbins, B. Hicks and J. M. Webb, a Committee to examine the minutes of corresponding Associations, who reported that they found in the minutes of the Tyger River Association for 1834, Article 21 and 22, the names of SAMUEL THOMPSON, RICHARD JOHNSON, R. HENDRINE, and JESSE DENSON, as preachers in disorder: *Resolved*, therefore, that this Association concur with the Tyger River, and others, in recommending the churches to guard against them.

12. Appointed the Pastor and Eldership of the church at Wolf's Creek, and brethren S. Baily and E. J. Underwood, a Committee to arrange the preaching for to-morrow, who reported as follows: Elder S. Gibson to preach first, Elder J. M. Webb follow: after intermission, Elder J. G. Landrum preach, and Elder D. Dobbins follow.

13. Appointed Elder B. Hicks to write the Circular Letter for next year; the subject to be, "*To explain the nature of Popery, and its probable tendency in the United States of America.*

14. Elected Elder J. Rainwater to preach the Introductory sermon next year, and in case of failure, Elder B. Hicks be prepared.

After prayer by Elder J. M. Webb, adjourned until Monday, 9 o'clock.

SUNDAY.

The stage was occupied by those appointed. The congregation was large, attentive and solemn. The word was preached with zeal and animation, and the people of GOD were comforted: mourning souls were invited to the SAVIOUR, and sinners were exhorted to flee from the wrath to come; and it is hoped, that the labors of this meeting will be attended with blessings for days to come.

MONDAY.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator. Took up the remaining business of the Association.

15. The corresponding letters were called for, read and received.

16. The Circular Letter, prepared by Elder D. Dobbins, was called for, read and received.

17. Our next Association will be held at Zion Meeting

House, Rutherford County, N. C., 25 miles South East of the Court House, at the usual time.

The following Preamble and Resolution was adopted by this Association:

Whereas, the *Abolitionists* in the Northern States, have circulated *certain incendiary pamphlets*, prejudicial to the interests of the South; and the same are calculated to create much disturbance in our christian community, inasmuch as such productions have been sent to MINISTERS and private members of churches, contrary to their wishes, and without their consent: and whereas, MINISTERS *of the Gospel* are liable, in this way, to have their usefulness much diminished, in a community whose feelings are hostile to such sentiments.

Therefore Resolved, That this Association disclaim all connexion with those engaged in sending abroad productions so corrupt and poisonous, and that we will in future look with indignation and contempt upon any such efforts, as are calculated to disturb the best interests and peace of our country; and we recommend the same course to our churches and sister Associations.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association are due to the citizens of this vicinity, for the kindness and hospitality they have manifested towards the messengers and delegates of this Association; may the Lord reward them for their kindness.

After prayer by Elder S. Gibson, adjourned to the time and place above named.

D. DOBBINS, *Moderator*.

P. RAMSAUR, *Clerk*.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Broad River Baptist Association, to the Churches in Union, send Greeting.

Beloved Brethren:

We address you this year, according to a resolve of last, on "*The duty of a church, in the choice of a Deacon.*" As the deacon is an officer in, and a servant of the church, each individual member should feel interested in the choice of their officers, as the prosperity of the church, and of the State, depends very much on having good, faithful, God-fearing rulers. That the deacon is a ruling elder in the church, is certain; for saith St. Paul, "Let the elders that rule well, be counted worthy of double honor; especially they who labor in the word and doctrine." 1st Timothy, v. 17. From the above it is evident, that there were in the church at Ephesus, ruling Elders, who did not labor in the word and doctrine; and St. Paul hath given the qualifications of a Bishop and Deacon and no more. We therefore believe that there were, and still are no other officers in the church of Jesus Christ, which is the pillar and ground of the truth.

A particular church, is an indefinite number of saints, who covenant to live in fellowship, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit, in the bonds of peace," attending to the commandments and ordinances of the gospel, as delivered by Christ and his Apostles to primitive christians.

We will now proceed to lay before you, some of the duties of a *Baptist Church* in the choice of *her Deacons*. The first account we have, that the church chose and set apart men to the office of Deacons, is in Acts, vi. chap. "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, it is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.—Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you, seven men

of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

The scriptures are an infallible rule for the church, both of faith and practice. We therefore say it is the duty of the *church*, to choose her *Deacons* from among her own members. Secondly, that they should be men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. When a church is of the opinion that she needs a Deacon, or Deacons, the thing should be made known to her members when in conference, and a serious and prayerful enquiry should be made, to know which of her members possess the qualifications, as laid down by St. Paul, 1st Tim. iii. 8. 9. The church should be unanimous in the choice, and the person, or persons chosen, should be informed that the mind of the church was set upon them. Then there should be at least one month of solemn, prayerful thought on the subject, by the church and the person or persons chosen. When they meet again in conference, and are of one mind in the choice, preparation may then be made to set *him* or *them* apart to the office, which should be done as follows: If there is belonging to the same church, two or more ordained preachers, then she will be able to ordain her *Deacons* to the office; but if the church does not possess sufficient strength for the work, let her request *sister churches* to send helps for that purpose. When the helps attend, and form a Presbytery, then the church may present her chosen member, or members, and the Presbytery shall examine him or them, relative to the work and office of a *Deacon;* also his views on the plan of salvation through Christ. If, upon the whole, his or their views comport with the word of God, he or they are sufficiently proven, let them lay hands on him, or them, with fervent prayer, and then let him or them use the office of a *Deacon.*

As the Ministers of *Christ* are stewards of the mysteries of God, so we believe the *Deacons* to be stewards of the church of Jesus Christ. And as it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful, we believe it is the duty of the Ministers to feed the flock of God, over whom the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers. Therefore, when a

Minister is called by a church to take the pastoral care thereof, if he consents to do so, it is his duty to attend that church faithfully, as a minister of Jesus Christ, and steward of the mysteries of God; and if he should become unfaithful to the church, in ministering the word, it is *her* duty to dismiss *him*, and call a more faithful shepherd: So also with the Deacon, who is the steward of the church; if he is found to be unfaithful, and fails to use the office of a *Deacon well*, the *church* should dismiss him from office, and choose another, and set him apart as above described.

Dear Brethren, we have written short on the subject; the scriptures are also short, but we think very explicit. We therefore advise the churches to have recourse to the word of God, in the choice and ordination of their Ministers and Deacons. "Let your Elders that rule well, be counted worthy of double honor:" they that have used the office of a *Deacon well*, purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Brethren, be faithful unto death, and God shall give you a crown of life.—Farewell.

DRURY DOBBINS, *Moderator.*

PHILIP RAMSAUR, *Clerk.*

O. H. WELLS, PRINTER—GREENVILLE, S. C.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

Ministers' names are in SMALL CAPITALS—Licensed Preachers' in *Italics*—Those marked thus (*) were not present.

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICES.	By whom Supplied.	CM	MINISTERS AND DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Let.	Restored.	Dismissd.	Exclud.	Dead.	Total.	Contribution.
Buffalo	Erwinsville N C	D. Dobbins	4 S	B. HICKS, P. RAMSAUR, S. M'BRAYER	0	2	1	1	0	4	82	$3 50
Sandy Run	Mooresboro' N C	D. Dobbins	3 S	D. DOBBINS, D. Beam, E. Jones, *Jos. Durham*	21	0	3	1	1	3	155	2 50
Friendship	Smiths Store S C	J. Rainwater	1 S	J. Ham, J. Hewit, J. Calvert	1	3	0	2	6	2	156	1 75
Green's Creek	White Oak N C	W. Hannon	1 S	C. Wilson, J. Cromley, W. Mills	7	2	1	7	0	4	61	1 15
Cedar Spring	Cedar Spring SC		4 S	R. White, J. Wells	0	0	0	12	0	1	82	1 00
Green River	White Oak N C	J. Blackwell	2 S	JOEL BLACKWELL, J. LYON, J. B. Allen	2	3	0	1	0	1	66	0 62½
Buck Creek	Buck Creek S C	B. Hicks	3 S	R. C. Poole, S. Ezell	1	0	1	7	0	0	90	1 55
Long Creek	Hoylesville N C	J. Law	3 S	S. Weathers, J. Smith	13	2	0	3	0	0	56	1 00
Providence	Clarksville S C	J. Richards	1 S	J. RICHARDS, J. Byars, J. R. Richards	1	2	0	0	1	0	44	1 00
Elbethel	Hancockville SC		4 S	J. Harrington, A. Goudelock	0	0	0	0	0	1	35	0 50
Concord	Rutherford N C	J. M. Webb	2 S	L. Burns, J. Bostick	1	0	0	0	0	0	40	0 75
Goucher Creek	Hancockville SC	J. Rainwater	3 S	R. Wilkins, M. Wilkins	3	0	1	0	0	0	85	1 00
Antioch	Harmony S C	G. Wilkie	1 S	G. WILKIE, J. Whisenant	6	0	0	0	2	2	100	1 50
Zion	Gardners ford NC	D. Dobbins	1 S	S. Baily, A. S. Elam [Turner	13	0	0	0	0	1	75	2 00
Wolf's Creek	Earlesville S C	W. Hannon	3 S	W. HANNON, H. HENDERSON, T. GROGAN, W.	4	4	0	6	3	1	132	2 15
New Prospect	do.	J. G. Landrum	2 S	J. McWilliams, T. Briant	1	4	0	5	4	1	76	1 35
Cross Roads	Gowensville S C	T. S. Rice	4 S	T. S. RICE, W. LINZEY,* J. Belew, R. Barnet	1	4	0	5	0	0	41	1 00
Macedonia	Buck Creek S C	B. Hicks	4 S	W. Williams	0	1	0	1	0	1	41	1 00
Philadelphia	Smiths Store S C	J. Rainwater	2 S	J. RAINWATER, E. J. Underwood, G. Wafford	4	1	1	11	2	0	99	2 06
Bethesda	Spartanburg C H	D. Scruggs	1 S	J. Poole, J. Cannon	2	0	0	3	0	0	42	1 06¼
Camp's Creek	Mooresboro' S C	D. Scruggs	3 S	L. Jones	0	0	0	2	0	2	27	0 50
State Line	Buck Creek S C	D. Scruggs	2 S	D. SCRUGGS, D. Amos, F. Ray	0	0	0	1	1	0	23	0 68
Mount Arrarat	Draytonville S C	G. Wilkie	2 S	———, J. Peeler	1	0	0	3	3	0	51	0 75
Hebron	Hoylesville N C	J. Law	4 S	Letter	7	2	1	0	0	0	25	0 37½
High Shoal	High Shoal N C	J. M. Webb	4 S	J. PADGETT,* J. M. WEBB, V. B. Rollins	2	0	0	1	0	0	22	0 50
Shiloh	Rutherford N C	J. Wilkie	2 S	J. WILKIE, Martin Putman, W. Figgens	8	0	0	4	2	0	45	0 85
					99	30	9	76	25	24	1751	$32 10